

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 02888 141153Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 141010Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3644

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

#2/AMCONGEN CAN THO 2590

AMCONGEN DANANV

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2888

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: WITHDRAWAL FROM TEAM-SITES

1. DURING PAST FEW DAYS WE HAVE RECEIVED SEGIES OF INDICATIONS
INDONESIANS ARE PLANNING OR CARRYING OUT FAIRLY LARGE-SCALE
WITHDRAWALS FROM TEAM SITES IN ALL FOUR MR'S. AT LUNCHEON
GIVEN BY CHARGE FOR ICCS AMBASSADORS MARCH 13, IRANIAN
AMBASSADOR ESFANDIARY PRIVATELY COMPLAINED TO US THAT
INDONESIANS WERE WITHDRAWING FROM TWO TEAM-SITES UNILATERALLY
WITHOUT INFORMING OR COORDINATING WITH IRANIANS, THUS LEAVING THE
LATTER ALONE IN THOSE POSTS PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED BY HUNGARIANS AND
POLES. ON SAME DAY INDONESIAN DELEGATION REQUESTED PA&E TO PREPARE
45 ROOMS FOR PERSONNEL COMING INTO SAIGON FROM FIELD POSTS.
APPEARS TO US FROM THIS AND OTHER INDICATORS THAT INDONESIANS ARE
BEING WITHDRAWN FROM ALL TEAMSITES IN THE DELTA, FROM CU CHI AND
LAM SON (EX-BEN CAT) IN MR-3, FROM HAU BON IN MR 2, AND FROM
QUANG TRI AND PHU BAI IN MR 1, AND PERHAPS OTHERS.

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2. EMBOFF CALLED ON INDODEL DCM SAMIL MORNING MARCH 14 AND

AFTER BRIEF EXCHANGE ON CURRENT SITUATION STATED WE UNDERSTAND INDODEL WITHDRAWING FROM CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF TEAM SITES, BUT THAT THIS WITHDRAWAL IS NOT BEING COORDINATED WITH IRANIANS AND WE HOPE SUCH COORDINATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED. SAMIL READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WITHDRAWALS ARE TAKING PLACE AND POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR SUHUD AND HE HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY OF THEIR OFFICERS. HE EXPLAINED THAT SOME TIME AGO GOI HAD DELEGATED TO THEM THE AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW OFFICERS FROM ANY ENDANGERED TEAM-SITE, AND THIS WEEK THEY HAD EXERCISED THIS AUTHORITY, REASON WHY MOVES WERE NOT BEING COORDINATED HE STATED, IS THAT IRANIANS, DESPITE URGENT MESSAGES TO TEHRAN, HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED SAME AUTHORITY FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, INDONESIANS WILL MAINTAIN BEST COORDINATION FEASIBLE WITH IRANIANS. SAMIL STATED THAT THE WITHDRAWALS ARE TEMPORARY, AND THAT THE INDONESIANS WOULD RE-OCCUPY THE SITES WHEN MILITARY SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS.

3. SAMIL ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT INDONESIAN DELEGATION WOULD ISSUE UNILATERAL APPEAL TO BOTH PARTIES ON THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WOULD ALSO ISSUE UNILATERAL PRESS STATEMENT, PROBABLY MARCH 15.

4. MEANWHILE POLES ROTATED 24 PERSONNEL IN FROM FIELD POSTS AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED, BUT CANCELLED TRIPS FOR THEIR REPLACEMENTS FROM SAIGON. POLISH MILITARY COMMANDER GEN. DEGA INFORMED EMBOFF TODAY THAT HE STILL HAS PERSONNEL AT LEAST IN ALL REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THAT HE IS WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY, AND THAT HE PLANS TO SEND MAN BACK INTO QUANG TRI TOMORROW. DEGA SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT HE HAS ORDERED THREE POLISH OFFICERS TO REMAIN IN PLEIKU.
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